GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:490
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2008
CUT IN PDS PRICE
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the comparative price of foodgrains in the open market and under the Public Distribution System(PDS) during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the price of foodgrains allotted to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families under PDS to make it effectively affordable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a),(b),(c) & (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 490 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 28.04.2008 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a) & (b): The open market prices of foodgrains are reviewed regularly by the Government. In order to ensure that the benefits of Targetted PDS reach the poor, the Central Issue Prices of wheat and rice have been kept unchanged from July 2002, even though the open market prices of wheat and rice have risen in the last six years.

The increase in the prices of foodgrains is attributable to various reasons such as regular revision in Minimum Support Prices, increase in storage and transportation cost, and upward revision in interest rates and possible speculation by private trade.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.